Q1. Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any, that have led to recent reported conflicts between the elected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of the Indian federal politics? (200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

Essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act:

1. **Special Status for Delhi:** The amendment designated Delhi as a Union Territory but with a special provision that conferred certain powers to the Legislative Assembly and the Council of Ministers.

2. **Powers of the Lieutenant Governor (LG):** The LG was entrusted with the power to exercise control over matters related to public order, police and land.

Anomalies leading to conflicts between elected representatives and the LG:

1. **Interpretation of Executive Powers:** Differences in the interpretation of the LG's powers and the scope of executive decision-making have led to conflicts.

2. **Administrative Control:** Disagreements arise over administrative control and the power to appoint and transfer civil servants.

Potential impact on Indian federal politics:

1. **Shifting Power Dynamics:** The conflicts in Delhi indicate a potential shift in power dynamics between elected representatives and the executive appointed by the central government.

2. **Legal Interpretation:** The conflicts have prompted legal interventions, with courts interpreting constitutional provisions to resolve disputes.

Answer:

The 69th Constitutional Amendment Act, passed in 1991, brought significant changes to Delhi's administration, aiming to provide a more democratic and representative system.

Essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act:

1. State-like powers to Delhi government, granting greater autonomy in areas like public order, police and land.

2. Establishment of an elected Legislative Assembly for Delhi with lawmaking authority.

Anomalies and Conflicts:

1. Conflict over the LG's role and decision-making authority, leading to interference perceived by the elected government.

2. Disagreements on key issues like appointments, officer transfers, land control and law enforcement.

Impact on Indian Federal Politics:

1. Raises questions about the balance of power between elected representatives and the central authority.

2. Emphasizes the need for cooperative federalism and effective coordination between the Union government and states/Union Territories.

While the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act aimed to establish a democratic and representative system, the conflicts in its implementation highlight the need for a clearer delineation of powers. Resolving these issues requires a comprehensive review of the Act and a focus on cooperative federalism. It also signals the importance of ensuring efficient governance in Delhi and may set a precedent for addressing similar matters in other regions of India.

Q2. To what extent is Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, bearing marginal note "temporary provision with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir", temporary? Discuss the future prospects of this provision in the context of Indian polity.

(200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

1. **Temporary Provision:** Article 370 was initially intended as a temporary provision to grant special autonomy to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. It provided for specific provisions regarding the state's governance, including matters of defense, external affairs and communication.

2. **Amendment and Evolution:** Over time, Article 370 has undergone several amendments and modifications, diluting its original intent. The Indian government has gradually eroded the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, leading to changes in the state's relationship with the Union.

Answer:

Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir, has been a subject of debate since its inception. Its "temporary" nature and implementation have raised questions about its future prospects in the Indian polity.

Discussion:

1. **Temporariness in legal terms:** The marginal note indicates Article 370 is temporary, but the lack of a specific timeframe has led to varied interpretations.

2. **Historical context:** It was meant to address unique circumstances during Jammu and Kashmir's accession, preserving its distinct identity while integrating with India.

3. **Constitutional evolution:** Amendments eroded its autonomy, sparking debate about its temporary nature.

Future prospects in the context of Indian polity:

1. **Legal and constitutional reforms:** Recent Supreme Court judgments and the reorganization into Union Territories shape the future trajectory of Article 370.

2. **Political will and consensus:** Prospects depend on the political will and consensus among stakeholders.

The temporariness and future prospects of Article 370 remain debatable, contingent on legal reforms, political will, dialogue and regional dynamics. Any decisions must prioritize democratic governance, inclusivity and addressing the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Q3. **"The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes". Discuss.** **(200 words) [12½]**

Approach to question:

1. **Fragmentation and Coalition Politics:** The emergence of regional and smaller parties has led to a fragmented party system, with numerous parties competing for power. This has resulted in the need for coalition governments and unstable political alliances.

2. **Ideological Shifts:** Traditional party ideologies have become less rigid and parties are increasingly adopting a pragmatic approach to gain popular support. This has led to ideological inconsistencies and a blurring of party lines.

Answer:

The Indian party system is currently undergoing a phase of transition characterized by contradictions and paradoxes in various aspects, including party alignments, voter behaviour and ideological shifts.

1. **Coalition Politics:** The prevalence of coalition politics promotes inclusivity but compromises ideological principles and policy coherence.

2. **Regionalism vs. Nationalism:** The rise of regional parties challenges national unity and dominance, creating a paradoxical dynamic.

3. **Ideological Diversification:** Parties adopting hybrid ideologies lead to policy inconsistencies and contradictions.

4. **Identity Politics:** Identity-based politics empowers marginalized communities but fosters divisiveness.

5. **Dynastic Politics:** Dynastic leadership provides stability but limits new talent and internal democracy.

6. **Fluid Voter Behaviour:** Voters' tendency to switch parties based on short-term considerations creates uncertainty and volatility.

7. **Anti-Incumbency vs. Stability:** Voters seek change but value stability, leading to a paradox between anti-incumbency sentiments and the need for continuity.

8. **Fragmentation vs. Consolidation:** The party system experiences simultaneous proliferation of regional parties and consolidation of power among national parties.

As coalition politics, regionalism, ideological diversification, identity politics, dynastic leadership, voter behaviour, anti-incumbency sentiments and party fragmentation and consolidation shape the transition, it is crucial to navigate these complexities to ensure effective governance and political representation in the country.

Q4. **Exercise of CAG's powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss whether audit of the Government's policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own (CAG) jurisdiction.** **(200 words) [12½]**

Approach to question:

1. **Constitutional Mandate:** Article 149 empowers the CAG to audit the accounts of the Union and the States. This includes financial audits to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of public funds.

2. **Scope of Audit:** The CAG's primary role is to examine the financial aspects of government operations, including revenue collection, expenditure and compliance with established procedures.

Answer:

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) exercises powers derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution to audit the accounts of the Union and the States, ensuring financial accountability.

Constitutional Mandate: Article 149 grants the CAG the power to audit government accounts for financial accountability and transparency, but it lacks specific guidelines on the extent of the CAG's jurisdiction.

1. **Audit vs. Policy Formulation:** The CAG's focus is on financial auditing, not policy formulation.

2. **Accountability vs. Policy Evaluation:** The CAG's audit aims to hold the government accountable for the proper use of public funds, while policy evaluation falls under policy experts' purview.

3. **Separation of Powers:** Overstepping jurisdiction could disrupt the separation of powers, as policy implementation lies within the executive and legislative branches.

4. **Independence and Impartiality:** The CAG must maintain independence and refrain from taking partisan stances or engaging in policy advocacy, which requires subjective assessments.

The CAG's audit role is crucial for ensuring financial transparency and accountability. To maintain its effectiveness, the CAG must distinguish between financial accountability and policy evaluation, adhere to its constitutional mandate and foster collaboration with government agencies.

Q5. Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Republic' in the Preamble. Are they defendable in the present circumstances?

(200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

1. **Sovereign:** India's sovereignty implies that it is an independent nation with the power to govern itself without external interference.

2. **Socialist:** The term "socialist" indicates a commitment to achieving social and economic equality through a welfare state and collective ownership.

Answer:

The Preamble of the Indian Constitution attaches several adjectives to the word 'Republic,' reflecting the nature and characteristics of the Indian state. This discussion evaluates the defensibility of each adjective in the present circumstances.

1. **Sovereign:** India maintains its sovereignty and independent decision-making in domestic and international affairs, but challenges like globalization and regional conflicts can impose limitations.

2. **Socialist:** While India follows a mixed economy with socialist elements, there is a shift towards market-oriented policies. Striking a balance between socialist ideals and market-driven growth is an ongoing debate.

3. **Secular:** India upholds its secular character, treating all religions equally.

4. **Democratic:** India remains a vibrant democracy with regular elections and fundamental rights.

5. **Republic:** India upholds the republican form of government with the President being elected indirectly.

While India maintains its sovereignty, secularism and republican form of government, the socialist and democratic aspects face ongoing debates and challenges. Strengthening these principles requires addressing economic disparities, religious harmony, protecting democratic institutions and promoting social justice. Continuously evaluating and reinforcing these principles will ensure their relevance and effectiveness in India's evolving socio-political landscape.

Q6. What was held in the Coelho case? In this context, can you say that judicial review is of key importance amongst the basic features of the Constitution? (200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

1. **Safeguarding Constitutional Values:** Judicial review ensures that laws and actions of the government are in line with the basic features and values enshrined in the Constitution, protecting citizens' rights and liberties.

2. **Balancing Powers:** Judicial review acts as a check on the exercise of legislative and executive powers, preventing any arbitrary or unconstitutional actions that could undermine the democratic system of governance.

Answer:

The Coelho case, also known as I. R. Coelho vs. State of Tamil Nadu, holds significant implications for judicial review as a basic feature of the Constitution. The case involved the constitutional validity of the 29th Amendment Act, which sought to nullify the judicial review powers of the Supreme Court and High Courts in matters relating to land reforms.

1. **Coelho Case:** In 2007, the Supreme Court held the 29th Amendment Act unconstitutional, reaffirming the importance of judicial review as a basic feature of the Constitution.

2. **Basic Structure Doctrine:** The Coelho case reinforced the doctrine of basic structure, stating that certain fundamental features of the Constitution cannot be amended. Judicial review was recognized as an integral part of the Constitution's basic structure.

3. **Importance of Judicial Review:** Judicial review ensures government compliance with the Constitution, upholds the rule of law, protects fundamental rights and prevents abuse of power.

The Coelho case highlighted the importance of judicial review in protecting fundamental rights, upholding constitutional supremacy, ensuring checks and balances and preserving judicial independence. As a vital feature of the Constitution, judicial review serves as a powerful mechanism to maintain the rule of law and uphold democratic principles.

Q7. Did the Government of India Act, 1935, lay down a federal constitution? Discuss.

(200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

1. **Centralized Features:** The Act retained significant powers with the central government, including control over finance, administration and legislation, diminishing the autonomy of the provinces.

2. **Limited Provincial Autonomy:** While the Act introduced provincial autonomy, it was subject to the overriding powers of the Governor-General and the central government, restricting the provinces' authority

Answer:

The Government of India Act, 1935, was a significant constitutional document that aimed to introduce reforms and establish a new framework for governance in British India. While it had federal elements, its federal character is debatable.

1. **Federal Features:**

    (a) **Division of Powers:** The Act provided for the division of powers between the central and provincial governments, resembling a federal system.

    (b) **Dual Government:** It established separate central and provincial governments with their executive, legislature and judiciary, reflecting federal-like arrangement.

2. **Unitary Elements:**

    (a) **Central Control:** The Act granted significant powers to the central government, limiting the autonomy of the provinces.

    (b) **Governor's Role:** Extensive powers given to British-appointed Governors weakened the federal structure.

3. **Pragmatic Federalism:**

    (a) **Federal Scheme:** The Act accommodated diverse interests within the framework of British governance, reflecting a pragmatic approach.

    (b) **British Parliament's Supremacy:** The Act emphasized the supremacy of the British Parliament, undermining the notion of equal standing for constituent units.

The Government of India Act, 1935, contained federal elements such as division of powers and dual government, but unitary features like central control and British Parliament's supremacy compromised its federal character.

Q8. What is quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples.

(200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

1. **Definition:** A quasi-judicial body is an organization or institution that has the authority to hear and decide disputes, conduct investigations and make legally binding determinations, but it is not a traditional court of law.

2. **Powers and Functions:** These bodies are vested with specific powers by legislation to enforce and apply laws, regulations and rules within their jurisdiction.

3. **Decision-Making Process:** Quasi-judicial bodies follow a formal process, involving hearings, evidence examination and the application of legal principles to reach a decision.

Answer:

A quasi-judicial body is an administrative agency or tribunal with powers similar to a court, tasked with resolving disputes and making decisions in specific areas of law.

Characteristics:

1. **Quasi-Judicial Powers:** These bodies possess judicial-like authority but are part of the administrative system.

2. **Administrative Function:** They interpret and apply laws within their specialized jurisdiction.

3. **Independent Decision-Making:** Quasi-judicial bodies operate impartially and independently.

Examples:

1. **National Green Tribunal (NGT):** Deals with environmental protection and violations.

2. **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):** Regulates the securities market and takes action against violations.

Powers and Procedures:

1. **Fact-Finding:** Quasi-judicial bodies gather evidence and conduct investigations.

2. **Decision-Making:** They interpret laws and issue binding orders based on their findings.

Quasi-judicial bodies play a crucial role in specialized areas of law, exercising quasi-judicial powers while being part of the administrative system. Examples like NGT, SEBI, TRAI, CIC and CCI demonstrate their significance in ensuring fairness and compliance with laws.

Q9. Professor Amartya Sen has advocated important reforms in the realms of primary education and primary health care. What are your suggestions to improve their status and performance?

(200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

Suggestions to improve the status and performance of primary education and primary healthcare:

1. **Increased Funding:** Allocate adequate financial resources to primary education and healthcare sectors to ensure sufficient infrastructure, quality teaching staff and access to necessary resources.

2. **Enhanced Training and Capacity Building:** Provide comprehensive training programs for teachers and healthcare professionals to improve their skills, knowledge and effectiveness in delivering quality education and healthcare services.

3. **Strengthening Infrastructure:** Invest in upgrading and expanding infrastructure, including schools, classrooms, laboratories, healthcare centers and medical facilities, especially in rural and underserved areas.

4. **Community Engagement:** Promote active participation of local communities, parents and stakeholders in decision-making processes and encourage their involvement in supporting and monitoring the functioning of educational institutions and healthcare facilities.

5. **Quality Standards and Monitoring:** Establish and enforce rigorous quality standards for primary education and healthcare and implement robust monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance and accountability.

6. **Emphasize Early Childhood Education:** Focus on early childhood education and development programs to provide a strong foundation for learning and overall well-being.

7. **Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships:** Foster collaborations between the government, private sector and non-profit organizations to leverage resources, expertise and innovative approaches for improving primary education and healthcare.

By implementing these suggestions, primary education and primary healthcare can be strengthened, leading to improved access, quality and outcomes, thereby enhancing overall development and well-being of individuals and communities.

Answer:

To enhance primary education and primary healthcare, several reforms can be considered. Here is a point-wise discussion on potential suggestions for improvement in these critical areas.

Improving Primary Education:

1. **Increase Budget Allocation:** Allocate a higher proportion of the budget towards primary education to ensure adequate funding for infrastructure and teacher training.

2. **Enhance Teacher Training:** Focus on comprehensive training programs to improve teaching quality and innovative pedagogical techniques.

3. **Strengthen Curriculum and Pedagogy:** Regularly update the curriculum and promote practical and skill-based learning opportunities.

4. **Technology Integration:** Encourage the use of technology in classrooms for effective learning.

Improving Primary Healthcare:

1. **Strengthen Infrastructure:** Enhance primary healthcare centers with essential facilities and equipment.

2. **Healthcare Workforce:** Increase the number of skilled healthcare professionals, especially in rural areas.

3. **Health Education and Awareness:** Launch health education campaigns to promote preventive healthcare practices.

4. **Telemedicine and Digital Health:** Utilize technology to improve healthcare access in remote areas.

By implementing these suggestions, we can work towards providing quality education and accessible healthcare to all, contributing to the overall development and well-being of society.

Q10. "In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal". Critically examine this statement.

(200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

1. **Political Parties and Civil Society:** Political parties and civil society organizations play a crucial role in shaping public opinion, advocating for policy changes and holding the government accountable.

2. **Media and Journalism:** Media acts as a watchdog, highlighting issues, exposing corruption and influencing public discourse, thereby impacting governance and policy-making.

3. **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** NGOs play a significant role in implementing development programs, providing services and addressing social issues where the government's reach is limited.

Answer:

The role of non-state actors in the Indian governance system has been a subject of debate, with some emphasizing their significant contributions, while others argue their role is marginal. Here is a point-wise critical examination of this statement.

Non-State Actors in Policy Formulation:

1. **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):** CSOs provide valuable inputs and grassroots perspectives on social, economic and environmental issues through research and advocacy.

2. **Think Tanks and Research Institutions:** Independent research institutions influence policy decisions with evidence-based recommendations.

Non-State Actors in Service Delivery:

1. **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** NGOs deliver essential services, bridge gaps in service provision and work in partnership with the government.

2. **`Community-Based Organizations (CBOs):** CBOs at the grassroots level implement government programs, advocate for community needs and facilitate development initiatives.

Non-State Actors in Accountability and Oversight:

1. **Media and Press:** The media exposes corruption, raises public awareness and holds the government accountable.

2. **Judicial Activism:** The judiciary upholds the rule of law, protects citizens' rights and drives legal and policy reforms.

While non-state actors play significant roles in policy formulation, service delivery and accountability, challenges regarding inclusivity, transparency and accountability need addressing. Leveraging their expertise can contribute to better governance in India.

Q11. "Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people's participation in the governance system are interdependent". Discuss their relationship in the context of India.

(200 words) [12½]

Answer:

The relationship between the effectiveness of the government system and people's participation in the governance system is crucial for a well-functioning democracy. In the context of India, this interdependence can be analyzed through various aspects.

Effective Government System:

1. **Policy Formulation and Implementation:** Effective policies that address societal needs and challenges are essential for good governance and public welfare.
2. **Service Delivery:** Efficient and equitable delivery of public services, especially to marginalized sections, reflects the government's effectiveness.
3. **Transparency and Accountability:** A transparent and accountable government fosters trust and credibility among citizens.

People's Participation in the Governance System:

1. **Informed Decision-Making:** Active citizen engagement ensures policies align with citizens' needs and aspirations.
2. **Feedback Mechanisms:** Citizens' feedback helps the government identify areas for improvement and make informed decisions.
3. **Social Accountability:** People's participation holds the government accountable for its actions and reduces the risk of misuse of power.

Interdependence between Effectiveness and Participation:

1. **Citizen-Centric Governance:** Active participation enables citizen-centric policies and programs.
2. **Trust and Legitimacy:** Participation enhances trust and legitimacy in governance.
3. **Collaboration and Co-creation:** Engaging citizens in decision-making results in more relevant and sustainable policies.

Challenges and the Way Forward:

1. **Inclusivity:** Efforts to include marginalized communities and vulnerable groups in governance processes are essential.
2. **Capacity Building:** Empowering citizens with knowledge and skills for effective participation is vital.
3. **Strengthening Institutions:** Robust institutional mechanisms for public participation and accountability should be established.

In India, an effective government system relies on people's participation in decision-making, feedback and social accountability. Engaging citizens in the governance process ensures policies are responsive to their needs, enhancing governance effectiveness and legitimacy. Promoting an inclusive and participatory governance system is crucial for sustainable development and inclusive growth.

Q12. In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, economic, social and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India.

(200 words) [12½]

Answer:

India ranks 85 among 180 countries in Transparency International's corruption index report of 2021. India's low standing in the integrity index of Transparency International indicates a decline in public morality. This decline is influenced by various legal, political, economic, social and cultural factors that foster corruption and unethical behaviour.

Legal Factors:

1. **Weak Anti-Corruption Measures:** Inadequate enforcement of anti-corruption laws and lenient penalties create an environment conducive to corruption.
2. **Loopholes and Ambiguities:** Ambiguous legal provisions and misuse of discretionary powers offer opportunities for corrupt practices.

Political Factors:

1. **Political Corruption:** Corruption within the political system undermines ethical governance and erodes public trust.
2. **Lack of Accountability:** Limited accountability mechanisms for politicians and officials allow corruption to go unchecked.

Economic Factors:

1. **Inequality and Poverty:** Economic inequality and poverty can lead individuals to resort to corruption for survival.

2. **Black Money and Illicit Financial Flows:** Illicit financial activities undermine the economic integrity and encourage unethical behavior.

Social Factors:

1. **Cultural Acceptance of Corruption:** Societal acceptance of corruption perpetuates unethical practices.

2. **Lack of Awareness and Civic Engagement:** Limited awareness and civic engagement hinder efforts to promote ethical behaviour.

Cultural Factors:

1. **Patronage and Favoritism:** Patronage networks and favoritism undermine public trust and encourage corruption.

2. **Lack of Ethical Education:** Insufficient emphasis on ethics and integrity in education and societal norms contributes to the decline of public morality.

India's decline in public morality can be attributed to a complex interplay of legal, political, economic, social and cultural factors. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach, including stronger anti-corruption measures, transparent governance, reducing economic disparities, promoting ethical education and fostering a culture of integrity. By tackling these factors, India can work towards restoring public trust, promoting ethical behaviour and improving its standing in integrity indices.

Q13. **Has the Indian governmental system responded adequately to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization started in 1991? What can the government do to be responsive to this important change?** (200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

1. **Policy Reforms:** The government implemented significant economic reforms, including deregulation, opening up of sectors to foreign investment and reducing bureaucratic hurdles, which contributed to economic growth and integration with the global economy.

2. **Infrastructure Development:** Efforts were made to improve infrastructure, such as highways, ports and airports, to facilitate trade and investment.

However, there are areas for improvement:

1. **Implementation Challenges:** The pace of reforms and their effective implementation have varied across sectors, resulting in uneven outcomes.

2. **Regulatory Framework:** Streamlining regulations, reducing bureaucratic red tape and improving ease of doing business would further support liberalization and private sector participation.

Answer:

The Indian governmental system responded to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG) initiated in 1991 by implementing economic reforms, encouraging private sector participation and pursuing global integration. While progress has been made, there are areas where the government's responsiveness can be further improved to fully leverage the opportunities presented by LPG.

Adequacy of Governmental System's Response:

1. **Economic Reforms:** Industrial licensing dismantling, reduced trade barriers and foreign direct investment promotion have spurred economic growth and integration into the global economy.

2. **Private Sector Participation:** Encouraging private sector involvement in sectors like telecommunications and infrastructure has boosted efficiency and investments.

3. **Regulatory Framework:** Establishment of regulatory bodies like SEBI and CCI fostered fair competition and consumer protection.

4. **Global Integration:** Participation in global forums and trade agreements enhanced market access and export opportunities.

Areas for Improvement in Government Responsiveness:

1. **Simplification of Regulations:** Streamlining regulations can improve the ease of doing business and attract more investments.

2. **Infrastructure Development:** Prioritizing infrastructure projects will support private sector initiatives and economic growth.

3. **Skill Development:** Robust skill training programs will equip the workforce with the necessary abilities for employment and entrepreneurship.

4. **Social Safety Nets:** Implementing social safety net programs will address inequalities and ensure inclusive growth.

5. **Sector-specific Reforms:** Targeted reforms in various industries can drive growth and improve competitiveness.

6. **Technology and Innovation:** Investing in R&D and innovation will enhance productivity and global competitiveness.

7. **Strengthening Institutions:** Ensuring effective and independent regulatory bodies and strong governance institutions will enhance government responsiveness.

While the Indian government has responded well to LPG demands, improvements are possible. Simplifying regulations, investing in infrastructure and skill development, implementing social safety nets, undertaking sector-specific reforms, fostering technology and innovation and strengthening institutions will enhance government responsiveness.

Q14. "**Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India**". **Comment.** (200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

1. **Hierarchical Structure:** The hierarchical nature of bureaucracy in India has often led to delays, red tape and inefficiencies, hindering the smooth implementation of policies and projects.

2. **Lack of Accountability:** Bureaucratic culture, characterized by a lack of accountability and transparency, has allowed corruption and nepotism to thrive, diverting resources meant for development and hindering progress.

To address these issues, the government can undertake the following measures:

1. **Administrative Reforms:** Implementing administrative reforms to streamline bureaucracy, enhance efficiency and promote transparency and accountability.

2. **Decentralization:** Empowering local governments and fostering decentralization to ensure grassroots participation and responsive governance.

Answer:

India's bureaucratic structure and culture have been subject to criticism for hindering the country's socio-economic development. This discussion will delve into the challenges posed by the traditional bureaucratic system and suggest measures to address them.

Challenges in Bureaucratic Structure and Culture:

1. Lack of accountability and transparency in decision-making processes, impacting socio-economic development.

2. Slow decision-making due to the hierarchical structure, leading to delays in policy implementation.

3. Corruption and red-tapism, prevalent in the bureaucratic culture, impeding effective policy implementation.

4. Inefficiency and resistance to change, hindering adaptability to dynamic socio-economic conditions.

5. Lack of innovation and creativity in the bureaucratic setup, limiting the development of progressive policies.

Measures for Improvement:

1. Promoting transparency and accountability through e-governance to enhance decision-making processes.

2. Simplifying bureaucratic procedures to expedite policy implementation and project execution.

3. Implementing measures to curb corruption and red-tapism to foster a more efficient bureaucracy.

4. Encouraging innovation and creativity among bureaucrats through training and exposure to best practices.

5. Adopting performance-based rewards to incentivize effective policy implementation.

While India's traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have posed challenges to socio-economic development, there is a growing recognition of the need for reform. By promoting transparency, accountability, efficiency and innovation within the bureaucracy, the government can overcome these challenges and create a more responsive and effective system that supports the country's socio-economic growth.

Q15. Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation. (200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

Child Rights and Protection: The policy emphasizes the rights and protection of children, ensuring their survival, development and participation in decision-making processes.

The status of implementation varies across different provisions:

Health and Nutrition: Efforts have been made to improve child healthcare and nutrition through schemes like Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). However, challenges remain in reaching remote areas and marginalized communities.

Answer:

The National Child Policy of India plays a vital role in safeguarding the rights and well-being of children. This discussion examines the key provisions of the policy and provides an overview of its implementation status.

Main Provisions of the National Child Policy:

1. **Child Survival and Health:** Ensuring access to healthcare, nutrition, immunization and safe drinking water and reducing child mortality rates.

2. **Education and Development:** Universal access to quality education, early childhood care, inclusive education and skill development programs.

3. **Protection of Children:** Strengthening child protection mechanisms, implementing legal frameworks and establishing child-friendly judicial processes.

4. **Participation and Empowerment:** Promoting child participation in decision-making processes and empowering them to contribute to society.

Status of Implementation:

1. **Progress in Health and Education:** Positive impact through programs like ICDS and SSA on child health and education outcomes.

2. **Challenges in Child Protection:** Ongoing issues of child labor, child marriage, trafficking and abuse require further attention and intervention.

3. **Limited Progress in Participation:** Children's voices are marginalized and their participation in decision-making remains limited.

4. **Inclusive Implementation:** Ensuring inclusivity for marginalized and vulnerable groups.

5. **Resource Allocation:** Adequate resource allocation is crucial for fully realizing policy objectives.

6. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for accountability.

The National Child Policy of India is a critical framework for children's protection and development. While progress has been made in child health and education, challenges in child protection, participation and resource allocation persist. Strengthening implementation, focusing on inclusivity and improving monitoring and evaluation are necessary to ensure the well-being and holistic development of all children in the country. Efforts should be directed towards creating a nurturing environment where children's rights are protected and their voices are heard and respected.

Q16. "Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled and creative". What measures have been taken by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable? (200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

1. **Skill Development Initiatives:** The government has launched various skill development programs such as Skill India Mission, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) to provide vocational training and enhance the employability of individuals.

2. **Education Reforms:** Emphasis has been placed on improving the quality of education, increasing access to education and promoting skill-oriented education through initiatives like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan and Atal Innovation Mission.

Answer:

India's demographic dividend, characterized by a young and productive population, holds the potential for significant economic growth. To harness this potential, the government has introduced various initiatives aimed at enhancing the education, skills and creativity of the workforce. These measures play a crucial role in realizing the demographic dividend and ensuring a more employable and productive population.

Key Initiatives to Enhance Workforce Productivity:

1. **Skill Development Programs:** The Skill India Mission, ITIs and apprenticeship programs focus on providing vocational training and practical skills to individuals.

2. **Educational Reforms:** SSA, RMSA and NEP 2020 aim to achieve universal education, improve access to quality education and emphasize skill development.

3. **Digital Literacy Initiatives:** Digital India and PMGDISHA promote digital literacy and access to digital services.

4. **Entrepreneurship and Start-up Ecosystem:** Start-up India and AIM foster entrepreneurship and innovation.

5. **Quality Enhancement:** NSQF and NIRF focus on improving the quality and competitiveness of education.

6. **Industry-Academia Collaboration:** NAPS and industry partnerships align education with industry needs and facilitate practical learning.

7. **Research and Development:** AIM and research grants promote research, innovation and advanced studies.

India's demographic dividend can be realized through the effective implementation of these initiatives. Continuous improvement, resource allocation and monitoring are essential to ensure their success. Additionally, addressing rural-urban disparities, promoting gender equality and reducing regional imbalances will further strengthen the workforce and enable India to harness the full potential of its demographic dividend. By investing in education, skills and innovation, India can drive economic growth and achieve sustainable development for the future.

Q17. "The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seem doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries". Discuss in the Indian perspective. (200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

1. **Promoting International Trade:** The WTO aims to facilitate international trade by providing a platform for negotiations, resolving trade disputes and establishing rules and regulations to govern global trade.

2. **Addressing Developing Country Concerns:** Developing countries, including India, have sought to ensure that trade policies are fair and promote their economic development by addressing issues like agricultural subsidies, market access and intellectual property rights.

Answer:

The World Trade Organization (WTO) plays a critical role in managing and promoting international trade in the era of globalization. However, the Doha round of negotiations has encountered challenges, primarily due to differences between developed and developing countries.

Issues and Concerns in the Indian Perspective:

1. **Development Agenda:** Developing countries, including India, emphasize the need for a development-oriented approach in trade negotiations, seeking special and differential treatment to overcome structural constraints.

2. **Agriculture:** India has concerns about the agricultural subsidies provided by developed countries, which negatively impact the livelihoods of farmers in developing nations and advocates for fair and balanced agricultural trade rules.

3. **Market Access:** India seeks improved market access for its goods and services in developed countries, particularly in sectors like textiles, pharmaceuticals and information technology, to enhance its export potential.

4. **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):** India advocates for a balanced approach that safeguards public health and fosters innovation while ensuring access to affordable medicines and technology transfer.

5. **Services and Mode 4:** India emphasizes the liberalization of services trade, especially Mode 4, to promote the movement of skilled professionals in sectors like IT, healthcare and education.

While the Doha round of negotiations at the WTO has encountered challenges, it is essential for all parties, including developed and developing countries, to engage in constructive dialogue and find common ground. Addressing the concerns raised by developing nations, such as India, is crucial to establishing a fair and inclusive global trading system that benefits all nations and promotes sustainable economic development worldwide. By working together, the WTO can foster a conducive environment for international trade that ensures the equitable participation of all countries and supports their socio-economic growth

Q18. Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario. (200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

Economic Engagement: The Look East Policy aimed to enhance economic cooperation with Southeast Asian countries and East Asian economies such as Japan, South Korea and China. It facilitated trade liberalization, promoted investments and fostered regional economic integration through initiatives like the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement.

Answer:

The Look East Policy (LEP) of India, initiated in the 1990s, aimed to strengthen economic and strategic ties with Southeast Asian nations and East Asian economies. Over time, the policy evolved into the Act East Policy (AEP), emphasizing deeper engagement and extending India's influence beyond economic cooperation to include strategic and cultural ties.

Economic Dimensions:

1. **Trade and Investment:** The LEP facilitated greater market access for Indian goods and services in East Asian economies, leading to increased trade and investment flows. India's integration into regional value chains promoted export-oriented manufacturing and facilitated technology transfers.

2. **Regional Cooperation:** The LEP prioritized engagement with ASEAN, resulting in the establishment of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (AIFTA) and promoting economic cooperation in tourism, agriculture and infrastructure development.

3. **Energy Security:** The LEP aimed to secure energy resources by forging energy partnerships with resource-rich countries in the region, ensuring a stable and diversified energy supply for India's growing economy.

Strategic Dimensions:

1. **Geopolitical Considerations:** The LEP was driven by India's desire to counterbalance China's growing influence in the region by deepening engagement with Southeast Asian and East Asian countries.

2. **Act East Policy:** Evolving from the LEP, the Act East Policy emphasized deeper engagement with East Asia, extending India's influence beyond economic cooperation to include strategic and cultural ties.

3. **Connectivity and Infrastructure:** The policy prioritized the development of connectivity infrastructure to enhance trade, investment and people-to-people exchanges.

India's Look East Policy, transformed into the Act East Policy, has played a crucial role in expanding economic and strategic engagement with Southeast Asian and East Asian countries. The policy's focus on trade, regional cooperation, energy security and geopolitical considerations has contributed to India's increased influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Q19. "Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of several member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)". Explain with suitable examples. (200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

Terrorism and Security Concerns: Cross-border terrorist attacks originating from Pakistan have posed significant security challenges to India and other SAARC member-states. These attacks undermine trust and cooperation among member-states, hindering the progress of regional integration.

Example: The Mumbai terror attacks in 2008, carried out by Pakistan-based terrorists, strained India-Pakistan relations and created a hostile environment within the SAARC framework.

Answer:

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) aims to promote regional cooperation and economic integration among its member states. However, increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of several member-states by Pakistan have undermined the prospects of SAARC.

Examples of Undermining Factors:

1. **Cross-Border Terrorism:** Incidents like the 2008 Mumbai attacks and the 2016 and 2019 Uri and Pulwama attacks, orchestrated by Pakistan-based terrorist groups, have strained India-Pakistan relations and impacted regional stability.

2. **Interference in Internal Affairs:** Pakistan's alleged support to insurgencies and political interference in other member-states, including Afghanistan, have hindered trust-building efforts and regional stability within SAARC.

Impact on Bilateral Relations:

1. **India-Pakistan Relations:** Frequent incidents of cross-border terrorism and interference have strained India-Pakistan relations, making it challenging for the two countries to engage in meaningful cooperation within SAARC.

2. **Regional Perception:** The continued cross-border terrorism and interference by Pakistan have created an atmosphere of distrust among other SAARC member-states, affecting the credibility and effectiveness of the organization.

Hindrance to Regional Integration:

1. **Economic Cooperation:** Trust deficits and security concerns hinder economic integration initiatives, such as the SAARC Motor Vehicles Agreement and SAARC Energy Ring.

2. **People-to-People Exchanges:** Incidents of terrorism and interference inhibit people-to-people exchanges, cultural cooperation and tourism, hindering social integration in the region.

The challenges of cross-border terrorism and interference in internal affairs have created a difficult environment for SAARC's future. To revitalize the organization, addressing the root causes of terrorism, promoting trust-building measures and ensuring non-interference in member-states' internal affairs are essential. Overcoming these challenges can pave the way for meaningful regional cooperation and economic integration in South Asia.

Q20. **What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India's position on these?**

(200 words) [12½]

Approach to question:

1. To study the communication problems in the modern world and their impact on society, culture and development.

2. To promote a more balanced flow of information and cultural exchange between developed and developing countries.

3. To address issues of media concentration, control and ownership and their impact on pluralism and diversity of voices.

Answer:

The McBride Commission, established by UNESCO in 1977, aimed to examine communication and mass media issues. It sought to democratize communication, promote cultural diversity and advocate for a new world information and communication order (NWICO).

Aims and Objectives of the McBride Commission:

1. **Democratization of Communication:** The Commission aimed to create a more equitable and democratic international communication order, reducing information disparities between developed and developing countries. It sought to ensure the participation and representation of marginalized groups in the media and communication processes.

2. **Cultural Diversity:** The Commission aimed to safeguard and promote cultural diversity in the media, recognizing the importance of diverse voices, perspectives and cultural expressions. It encouraged the production and dissemination of content that reflects the cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversity of societies.

India's Position on the Aims and Objectives:

1. **Democratization of Communication:** India supported reducing information disparities and emphasized promoting media literacy and access to information for marginalized sections of society.

2. **Cultural Diversity:** India stressed the importance of balanced representation and coverage of diverse cultures, languages and traditions, asserting the right of countries to protect and promote their cultural expressions.

The McBride Commission aimed to create a fair and inclusive global communication order. India's support for its objectives aligned with its broader stance on communication and media issues, emphasizing equity, cultural diversity and greater participation of developing countries in shaping the global communication landscape.